

extends through the thickness of the panel even though no single panel domain extends the entire thickness of the panel.

Applicant asserts “extending through the thickness of the panel” means extending through the entire thickness of the panel, *i.e.*, spanning from a primary surface to an opposing surface. Such a meaning has support throughout the present Application, including each of the Figures. Respectfully, Applicant believes that a skilled artisan would understand the phrase in a similar fashion, both from a dictionary definition of “through”, from its context in the claim and from the claim’s support in the Application.

Enclosed is a photocopy of page 1230 of Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition, which contains definitions for “through”. Each of these definitions indicates that “through” means extending *entirely* from one surface to another or one boundary to another. Applicant fails to find support for a definition of “through” analogous to the Examiner’s belief that “through” can mean less than all the way through.

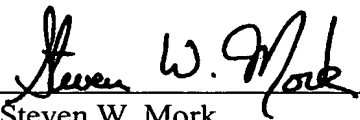
Furthermore, the present Application sets for a definition of “through” in the context of the phrase in question as extending from one primary surface to an opposing primary surface. Applicant points to the sentence that spans lines 33 and 34 on page 5 of the present Application which reads: “Desirably, a band also extends the thickness of the panel.” This is the specific sentence Applicant used for support in amending the present claims to include “extending through the thickness of the panel...” in the response dated 11 June 2003. Applicant asserts that this sentence on lines 33 and 34 of page 5 unquestionable defines “extending through the thickness of the panel...” as meaning extending the thickness of the panel. “Thickness of the panel” is synonymous with “panel thickness”, which means a perpendicular distance between a primary face and its opposing face (*see*, page 4, lines 33-34 of the present invention). Therefore, the meaning of “extending through the thickness of the panel ...” according to the context of the present Application is extending from a primary face perpendicularly to an opposing face.

Neither the dictionary definitions nor the context of the present invention supports the Examiner’s understanding of “through” as meaning extending partly through as opposed to entirely through the panel thickness. Furthermore, neither the

dictionary definitions nor the context of the present invention provides a meaning for the claims of the present invention that encompasses the layered structures of Reeves, et al. As such, Applicant finds the structures of Reeves, et al. outside the claim scope of the present Application. If the structures of Reeves, et al. are outside the claim scope of the present invention then the present rejections are without merit.

In view of these remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the present rejections and allow Claims 1-12 and 15-22 of the present Application. If the Examiner wishes to maintain any or all of the rejections, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide for the record (1) a reason to dispute the enclosed dictionary definitions for "through"; and (2) an explanation as to how a skilled artisan could interpret "through" from the context of the Application, particularly that used as support for the presently disputed claim amendment, in a manner that means less than from a primary face to an opposing face.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Mork", is written over a horizontal line.

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1230 thrortle thru thrum

thrortle \ˈθrɔːl-əl/ *n* [ME, fr. OE — more at **THRUSH**] (bef. 12c)
: **THRUSH** 1; *specif*: **SONG THRUSH**
thrortle \ˈθrɔːl-tl/ *vb* **thrortle**; **thrortle** \ˈθrɔːl-tl-ɪŋ/ *vb* (15c)
[ME *throilen*, fr. *throite* throat] *vt* (15c) 1 a (1): to compress the throat of: **CHOKED** (2): to kill by such action b: to prevent or check expression or activity of: **SUPPRESS** 2 a: to decrease the flow of (as steam or fuel to an engine) by a valve b: to regulate and esp. to reduce the speed of (as an engine) by such means c: to vary the thrust of (a rocket engine) during flight ~ *vi*: to throttle something (as an engine) — *usu.* used with *back* or *down* (the pilot *throttled back*) —
thrortle \ˈθrɔːl-tl-ər/ *n*
thrortle *n* [perh. fr. (assumed) ME, dim. of ME *throite* throat] (ca. 1547) 1 a: **THROAT** la b: **TRACHEA** 1 2 a: a valve for regulating the supply of a fluid (as steam) to an engine; esp. the valve controlling the volume of vaporized fuel charge delivered to the cylinders of an internal combustion engine b: the lever controlling this valve c: the condition of being throttled ~ at full **thrortle**: at full speed
thrortle-able \ˈθrɔːl-tl-ə-bəl/ *adj* (1960): capable of having the thrust varied — used of a rocket engine
thrortle-hold \ˈθrɔːl-tl-ə-həld/ *n* (1935): a vicious, strangling, or stultifying control
through \ˈθruː/ *prep* [ME *thurh*, *thruh*, *through*, fr. OE *thurh*; akin to OHG *durh* through, *L* *trans* across, beyond, Skt *tarati* he crosses over] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1): used as a function word to indicate movement into at one side or point and out at another and esp. the opposite side of (drove a nail ~ the board) (2): by way of (left ~ the door) (3): used as a function word to indicate passage from one end or boundary to another (a highway ~ the forest) (a road ~ the desert) (4): without stopping for: **PAST** (drove ~ a red light) b — used as a function word to indicate passage into and out of a treatment, handling, or process (the matter has already passed ~ her hands) 2 — used as a function word to indicate means, agency, or intermediacy: as a: by means of: by the agency of b: because of (failed ~ ignorance) c: by common descent from or relationship with (related ~ their grandfather) 3 a: over the whole surface or extent of: **THROUGHOUT** (homes scattered ~ the valley) b — used as a function word to indicate movement within a large expanse (flew ~ the air) c — used as a function word to indicate exposure to a specified set of conditions (put him ~ hell) 4 — used as a function word to indicate a period of time: as a: during the entire period of (all ~ her life) b: from the beginning to the end of (the tower stood ~ the earthquake) c: to and including (Monday ~ Friday) 5 a — used as a function word to indicate completion or exhaustion (got ~ the book) (went ~ the money in a year) b — used as a function word to indicate acceptance or approval esp. by an official body (got the bill ~ the legislature)
through \ˈθruː/ *adv* (bef. 12c) 1: from one end or side to the other 2 a: from beginning to end b: to completion, conclusion, or accomplishment (see it ~) 3: to the core: **COMPLETELY** (soaked ~) 4: into the open: **OUT** (break ~)
through \ˈθruː/ *adj* (1523) 1 a: extending from one surface to another (a ~ mortise) b: admitting free or continuous passage: **DIRECT** (a ~ road) 2 a (1): going from point of origin to destination without change or reshaping (a ~ train) (2): of or relating to such movement (a ~ ticket) b: initiated at and destined for points outside a local zone (~ traffic) 3 a: arrived at completion or accomplishment (is ~ with the job) b: **WASHED-UP**, **FINISHED**
through and through *adv* (15c): in every way: **THOROUGHLY**
through-composed \ˈθruː-kəm-pəzəd/ *adj* [trans. of G *durchkomponiert*] (1884) of a song: having new music provided for each stanza — compare **STROPHIC**
through-ith-er or **through-oth-er** \ˈθruː-ə-ðər/ *adv* [ˈθruːə + *other*] (1596) chiefly Scot.: in confusion: **PROMISCUOUSLY**
through-ly \ˈθruː-lē/ *adv* (15c) archaic: in a thorough manner
through-out \ˈθruː-əʊt/ *adv* (13c) 1: in or to every part: **EVERYWHERE** (of one color ~) 2: during the whole time or action: from beginning to end (remained loyal ~)
throughout *prep* (13c) 1: all the way from one end to the other of: in or to every part of (cities ~ the United States) 2: during the whole course or period of (troubled her ~ her life)
through-put \ˈθruː-put/ *n* (ca. 1915): **OUTPUT**, **PRODUCTION** (the ~ of a computer)
through street *n* (1930): a street on which the through movement of traffic is given preference
throve *past* of **THRIVE**
throw \ˈθrəʊ/ *vb* **threw** \ˈθruː/; **thrown** \ˈθrɔːn/; **throwing** [ME *throwen*; *throwen* to cause to twist, *throw*, fr. OE *throwan* to cause to twist or turn; akin to OHG *drān* to turn, *L* *terere* to rub, Gk *tribein* to rub, *tetraiēn* to bore, pierce] *vt* (14c) 1 a: to propel through the air by a forward motion of the hand and arm (~ a baseball) b: to propel through the air in any manner (a rifle that can ~ a bullet a mile) 2 a: to cause to fall (*threw* his opponent) b: to cause to fall off: **UNSEAT** (the horse *threw* its rider) c: to get the better of: **OVERCOME** (the problem didn't ~ her) 3 a: to fling (oneself) precipitately (*threw* herself down on the sofa) b: to drive or impel violently: **DASH** (the ship was *thrown* on a reef) 4 a (1): to put in a particular position or condition (*threw* her arms around him) (2): to put on or off hastily or carelessly (*threw* on a coat) b: to bring to bear: **EXERT** (*threw* all his efforts into the boy's defense) c: **BUILD**, **CONSTRUCT** (*threw* a pontoon bridge over the river) 5: to form or shape on a potter's wheel 6: to deliver (a blow) in or as if in boxing 7: to twist two or more filaments of into a thread or yarn 8 a: to make a cast (a throw or a specified number on dice) b: **ROLL** la (~ a bowling ball) 9: to give up: **ABANDON** 10: to send forth: **PROJECT** (the setting sun *threw* long shadows) 11: to make (oneself) dependent: **commit** (oneself) for help, support, or protection (*threw* himself on the mercy of the court) 12: to indulge in: give way to (*threw* a temper tantrum) 13: to bring forth: give birth to: **SIRE**, **PRODUCE** (~s a good crop) (*threw* large litters) 14: to lose intentionally (~ a game) 15: to move (a lever) so as to connect or disconnect parts of a clutch or switch; also: to make or break (a connection) with a lever 16: to give by way of entertainment (~ a party) ~ *vi*: **CAST**, **HURL** — **throw-er** \ˈθrəʊ-ər/ *n* — **throw one's weight around** or **throw one's weight about**: to exercise influence or authority esp. to an excessive degree or in an objectionable manner — **throw together** 1: to put together in a

hurried and usu. careless manner (a bookshelf hastily *thrown together*) 2: to bring into casual association (different kinds of people are *thrown together*) — Richard Sennett

throw *THROW*, **CAST**, **TOSS**, **FLING**, **HURL**, **PITCH**, **SLING** mean to cause to move swiftly through space by a propulsive movement or a propelling force. **THROW** is general and interchangeable with the other terms but may specify. imply a distinctive motion with bent arm (can *throw* a fastball and a curve), **CAST** *usu.* implies lightness in the thing thrown and sometimes a scattering (cast it to the winds). **TOSS** suggests a light or careless or aimless throwing and may imply an upward motion (tossed the coat on the bed). **FLING** stresses a violent throwing (flung the ring back in his face). **HURL** implies power as in throwing a massive weight (hurled himself at the intruder). **PITCH** suggests throwing carefully at a target (pitch horseshoes). **SLING** stresses either the use of whirling momentum in throwing or directness of aim (slung the bag over his shoulder).

throw *n* (1530) 1 a: an act of throwing, hurling, or flinging b (1): an act of throwing dice (2): the number thrown with a cast of dice c: a method of throwing an opponent in wrestling or judo 2: the distance a missile may be thrown or light rays may be projected 3: an undertaking involving chance or danger: **RISK**, **VENTURE** 4: the amount of vertical displacement produced by a geological fault 5 a: the extreme movement given to a pivoted or reciprocating piece by a cam, crank, or eccentric b: **STROKE** b: the length of the radius of a crank or the virtual crank radius of an eccentric or cam 6 a: a light coverlet (as for a bed) b: a woman's scarf or light wrap — a **throw**: for each one: **APIECE** (copies are to be sold at \$5 a **throw**) — Harvey Breit

throw-away \ˈθrəʊ-ə-wā/ *n* (1903) 1: one that is or is designed to be thrown away: as a: a free handbill or circular b: a line of dialogue (as in a play) de-emphasized by casual delivery; esp. a joke or witicism delivered casually 2: something made or done without care or interest

throwaway *adj* (1928) 1: designed to be thrown away: **DISPOSABLE** (~ containers) 2: written or spoken (as in a play) in a low-key or unemphatic manner (~ lines) 3: **NONCHALANT**, **CASUAL**

throw away *vt* (1530) 1 a: to get rid of as worthless or unnecessary b: **DISCARD** 2b 2 a: to use in a foolish or wasteful manner: **SQUANDER** b: to fail to take advantage of: **WASTE** 3: to make (as a line in a play) unemphatic by casual delivery

throw-back \ˈθrəʊ-bak/ *n* (1888) 1 a: reversion to an earlier type or phase: **ATAVISM** b: an instance or product of atavistic reversion 2: one that is suggestive of or suited to an earlier time or style (his manners were a ~ to a more polite era)

throw back *vt* (1840) 1: to delay the progress or advance of: **CHECK** 2: to cause to rely: make dependent (they are *thrown back* upon... native intelligence — Michael Novak) 3: **REFLECT** ~ *vi*: to revert to an earlier type or phase

throw down *vt* (14c) 1: to cause to fall: **OVERTHROW** 2: **PRECIPITATE** 3: to cast off: **DISCARD**

throw-in \ˈθrəʊ-ɪn/ *n* (1881): an act or instance of throwing a ball in: as a: a throw made from the touchline in soccer to put the ball back in play after it has gone into touch b: a throw from an outfielder to the infield in baseball c: an inbounds pass in basketball

throw in *vt* (1678) 1: to add as a gratuity or supplement 2: to introduce or interject in the course of something: **CONTRIBUTE** (they *threw in* some... sound effects on several songs — Tom Phillips) 3: **DISTRIBUTE** 3b 4: **ENGAGE** (throw in the clutch) ~ *vi*: to enter into association or partnership: **JOIN** (agrees to *throw in* with a crooked ex-cop — *Newsweek*) — **throw in the towel** also **throw in the sponge**: to abandon a struggle or contest: acknowledge defeat

throw off *vt* (1618) 1 a: to free oneself from: get rid of (*threw off* his inhibitions) b: to cast off often in a hurried or vigorous manner: **ABANDON** (*threw off* all restraint) c: **DISTRIBUTE**, **DIVERT** (dogs *threw off* by a false scent) 2: **EMIT**, **GIVE OFF** (stacks *throwing off* plumes of smoke) 3: to produce in an offhand manner: execute with speed or facility (some little... tune that the composer had *thrown off* — James Hilton) 4 a: to cause to depart from an expected or desired course (mistakes *threw* his calculations off a bit) b: to cause to make a mistake: **MISLEAD** ~ *vi* 1: to begin hating 2: to make derogatory comments

throw out *vt* (1526) 1 a: to remove from a place, office, or employment *usu.* in a sudden or unexpected manner b: to get rid of as worthless or unnecessary 2: to give expression to: **UTTER** (*threw out* a remark... that utterly confounded him — Jean Stafford) 3: to dismiss from acceptance or consideration: **REJECT** (the testimony was *thrown out*) 4: to make visible or manifest: **DISPLAY** (the signal was *thrown out* for the... fleet to prepare for action — Archibald Duncan)

throw out *for* the... fleet to prepare for action — Archibald Duncan
5: to leave behind: **OUTDISTANCE** 6: to give forth from within: **EMIT** 7 a: to send out b: to cause to project: **EXTEND** 8: **CONFUSE**, **DISCONCERT** (automobiles in line blocking the road... *threw* the whole schedule out — F. D. Roosevelt) 9: to cause to stand out: make prominent 10: to make a throw that enables a teammate to put out (a base runner)

throw over *vt* (1835) 1: to forsake despite bonds of attachment or duty 2: to refuse to accept: **REJECT**
throw pillow *n* (1956): a small pillow used esp. as a decorative accessory

throw rug *n* (1928): **SCATTER RUG**
throw-stir \ˈθrəʊ-stər/ *n* (15c): one who throws textile filaments

throw up *vt* (15c) 1: to raise quickly 2: **GIVE UP**, **QUIT** (the urge... to *throw up* all intellectual work — Norman Mailer) 3: to build hurriedly (new houses *threw up* almost overnight) 4: **VOMIT** 5: to bring forth: **PRODUCE** 6: to make distinct esp. by contrast: cause to stand out 7: to mention repeatedly by way of reproach ~ *vi*: **VOMIT** — **throw up one's hands**: to admit defeat (in the end *threw up* his hands in despair — Frank Conroy)

throw weight *n* (1969): the maximum payload of an ICBM

thru *var* of **THROUGH**

thrum \ˈθrəm/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *thrum* (in *tungethrum* ligament of the tongue); akin to OHG *drum* fragment] (14c) 1 a (1): a fringe of warp threads left on the loom after the cloth has been removed (2): one of these warp threads b: a tuft or short piece of rope yarn used

in thrumming canvas — *usu.* used in pl. fiber, or threadlike leaf on a plant; also: a tuft — **thrum** *adj*

thrum *vb* **thrummed**; **thrum-ming** (15c)
: **FRINGE** 2: to insert short pieces of rope of canvas) to make a rough surface or a about rigging to prevent chafing

thrum *vb* **thrummed**; **thrum-ming** [imit. of a stringed instrument idly]: **STRUM** ~ *vi* 1: to play (as a string) relaxed manner 2: to recite tiresomely or

thrum *n* (1798): the monotonous sound of thrush \ˈθrʌʃ/ *n* [ME *thrusche*, fr. OE *thrusch*, OHG *drascala*, *L* *turdus*] (bef. 12c) or medium-sized oscine birds (families *T*) which are mostly of a plain color often v many of which are excellent singers 2: thrush

thrush *n* [prob. of Scand origin; akin to *l* (1665) 1: a disease that is caused by a occurs esp. in infants and children, and is the oral cavity; **BROADLY**: **CANDIDIASIS** (var. disorder of the feet in various animals) (as a **thrush** \ˈθrʌʃ/ *vb* **thrust**; **thrusting** \ˈθrʌʃ-ɪŋ/ *vb* (13c) 1: to push or drive with to enter or pierce something by or as if by heart) 3: **EXTEND**, **SPREAD** 4: **STAB**, **PIER** willing person) forcibly into a course of action (the job) b: to introduce often im

thrust *vt* (13c) 1: to push or drive with to enter or pierce something by or as if by heart) 3: **EXTEND**, **SPREAD** 4: **STAB**, **PIER** willing person) forcibly into a course of action (the job) b: to introduce often im

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